

Republis, and at the disposal of Congress. It has been proposed by Mr Clay that these lands should be under the provisions of a special law, and the proceeds divided among the several States on fixed principles, according to their representation in Congress. A bill for that purpose formerly passed the legislature, but General Jackson did not permit it to become a law, allowing it to drop without giving his Presidential sanction; but it is understood that General Harrison will readily approve, if it be sent up to him by the Senate. The passage of such a measure would afford the various States powerful aid in completing their schemes of internal improvements. But then, whatever is given to the revenues of the different States, is withdrawn from the revenue of the Union.

It is supposed that a change of the tariff will be strenuously supported by the manufacturing States who are desirous for having protected duties, but they will meet with vehement opposition from the exporting interest, and we trust that free principles of trade will still prevail in Congress.

A BANKRUPT TREASURY.

That prodigal spendthrift Daniel Webster, has made an attack on that part of the President's Message which relates to the financial affairs of the Government, and present state of the U. S. Treasury and reflects the oft-repeated and as oft refuted assertion that the Treasury is bankrupt; and in this he is followed by all the yelping curs of federal whigery, who with one accord are every where exulting at the top of their voices—“Ruined! Ruined! Ruined!” The country is ruined—the Government is in debt—and the Treasury is bankrupt—and nothing will save us but a National Bank—and a High Tariff!!!

If the British whigs really wish to exhibit an indebted Government and a bankrupt Treasury, they have but to show the financial affairs of most any one of the States where their party has had the rule for the last two or three years, and the picture will not be disputed.

Take for instance the State of New York, where the Internal Improvement System was first commenced on a large scale. That State for the thirteen years preceding 1833 had been blessed with a Democratic Administration, by which her vast improvements had been steadily and economically pushed forward, and all her financial concerns had been safely and faithfully conducted. During those thirteen years the State had contracted debts amounting to \$8,166,317, of which had been paid \$5,090,402, leaving due a balance of \$3,155,915 at the time the whig party acquired the rule of the State. That time there was in the State Treasury \$3,277,430, and State stocks and other securities amounting to \$1,557,987. Being enough to pay all debts owed by the State and have a balance of \$1,728,632 left in the Treasury.

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MR. WEBSTER'S RETRACTION TO MR. RHEATT.

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deserve notice. Mr. Rhett, having been detained at home by indisposition, did not reach Washington until about the 10th of January. On the 10th he sent a note to Mr. Webster, by his friend Col. Shumpter, stating that in the speech of Mr. Webster, delivered at Somestown, the 10th of last August, which was published in the *National Intelligencer* of Sept. 4, he had referred to an speech by Mr. Clay in Congress, in which, as Mr. Webster avowed, the member from South Carolina advocated a direct tax on land to raise revenue, and had assigned for it among other reasons, that “it would bring the North to the ground.”

Mr. Rhett, in his note freely regards this as injuriously imputing to him a wish, as a member of the National Legislature, to oppose or injure the North, for the advantage of the South, and states that he has taken the first opportunity of being in the same place with Mr. Webster to ask an explanation, adding “my friend Col. Shumpter will find you this, and resolve your inquiry.”

Mr. Webster immediately sits down and writes thus—“Sir, I certainly never imputed or intended to impute, to you such language,” adds, “if my remarks, do injustice to you, or any other individual, it will give me great pleasure to correct it.”

Mr. Rhett replies, that he is satisfied with Mr. Webster's disclaimer of this part of his speech, as printed but remarks, with obvious propriety, “those who have read that speech will never read the correction.” The correspondence, with Mr. Webster's disclaimer, has been published by *Mr. Post*.

MR. KENT A MINORITY GOVERNOR.

The committee give Mr. Kent a plurality of 67 over Gov. Fairfield. The following are the numbers of votes rejected by them as illegal:

Faultless, Kent.	1
Philispburg	1
Jonesport	1
Bangor	3
No. 1, 2d Range } 18	1
thrown in Concord }	
Pago's Mills	13
Islands in Penobscot Bay }	2
thrown in Brooksville }	
Clinton Gore	11
3 Townships, voting in Smyrna 9	8
	56 14

Counting these rejected votes, Kent's plurality is reduced to 25.

It is not of course doubted that the 28 votes returned for H. Hamlin in Springfield, were in fact, given for Fairfield. Adding these votes then, his plurality over Kent is exactly 3 votes.

The committee have made a plurality the other way. The Age says—“The more violent members of its majority, desired to do more, and to declare Kent elected by the people. In this however they were overruled by the more moderate, and Kent is made confessedly a minority Governor.”—*Eastern Argus*.

AN APT ILLUSTRATION.

The following from the *Boston Post* is exceedingly apt and appropriate:

“The Democratic Party are in a temporary minority, because they would not resort to the extraordinary means to inflame and disgust the people used by their opponents. There is a nobler and more enduring consciousness in defeat under the banner of truth and right, than in success purchased at the expense of profligacy, honor and virtue. ‘If your father-in-law, Ferdinand, has acted perfidiously,’ said Louis XII. to Philip of Austria, ‘I am determined not to imitate him; and I am much more pleased in having lost a kingdom, which I am able to recover, than I should have been had I saved my kingdom and lost my honor, which could never be recovered.’ So says Democracy to Federalism, in view of the recent controversy, and so may President Van Buren say to his successor.”

The Spirit Of The Age.

To check Achilles and to rescue Troy.

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 5, 1841.

THE PUBLIC LANDS, AGAIN.

The debate on the Public Lands continues in the Senate. Mr Calhoun has given his opinions at length. The leading men of both parties have also given their views. Our limits will not allow us to give extended extracts. We have however examined all sides with candor and impartiality we are able, and see no reason for changing our old opinion on this subject. That is, that, according to the deeds of cession, the public lands “should be considered a common fund for the use and benefit of such of the U. S. as have become, or shall become, members of the confederation, according to their several respective proportions in the general charge and expenditure, and shall be faithfully and bona fide disposed of for that purpose, and for no other-use or purpose whatsoever.”

Whatever may be the policy in future with regard to this question, we are decidedly opposed to looking at it, at the present, in any other light than that in which the deeds of cession evidently intend it should be contemplated. In the first place, as a good and sufficient reason—setting Mr Calhoun's project out of the question,—we oppose Mr Clay's, the pure party and purely federal measure, the general distribution, because the Government has barely money enough to meet its expenditures by appropriating the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. Take that revenue away, and its necessary expenses cannot be met but by additional taxes on the people, or an increase of the tariff, which amounts to the same thing; for, as the duties on imported articles form part of their cost, they are increased in proportion to the profits of the importers and retailers, and the tax is finally paid by the consumer.

As another reason, in the language of Col. Benton, we think it strange that a recommendation to distribute the proceeds of the public lands should be made to the several states at the very time we are discussing grave points with Britain, and have not money in the treasury to put our country in a state of defense—that the states have become so greedy after the surplus revenue on the proceeds of the public lands, that every proposition of the Military Committee for the defense of the country is disregarded. This is a striking fact. We are at this moment in angry contention with the greatest power the world ever saw—not excepting the Roman empire—and yet make no preparation to enforce the rights we so zealously insist on.

Our country could not stand against the fleets of Britain for an instant, every town upon our seaboard would be at the mercy of steam batteries and howitzer shot. The slaves, or freedmen of the West Indies would furnish them with troops peculiarly adapted to invading the country in debt, and affixing taxation on posterity, for the present support of sharpers, swindlers, speculators, and other *federal latrocinis*.—*These (N. Y. H.) Gazette*.

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF THAT NUT-CARE.

The world owe us a debt of gratitude. That debt should be the more duly appreciated and cheerfully liquidated, because the time has long since gone by when benefactors of the human race can be counted as thick as blackberries. Kepler, Kant, Newton, Locke, Bacon, Luther, and a host of other great and good men are slumbering in the tomb; and from their ashes has sprung a pigmy race of self-styled immortals, whose only claim to the distinction to which they aspire, the real friends of their race, is founded upon pretensions as empty as the baseless fabric of a vision, as evanescent as the mountain mist.

This race of small potatoes has flourished with great noise and vigor up to this year of our Lord. It is no more. The glory of the Childe's excellence has gone down forever. Ishmael is written upon the domes of their towering temples. They are forgotten. They are not.

In the year of our Lord 1841, the 66th of the Independence of the United States of America; or 1855th year of the Julian period; or 562nd year since the creation of the world, according to the Jews; the 254th year since the foundation of Rome, according to Varro; or the 257th (lunar) year since the Hegira, or flight of Mahomet, and the 1st year since the establishment of *The Spirit of the Age*. The young man, before scarcely known beyond the air of his native hills, in a comparatively obscure village, in the United States of America, through the columns of a country newspaper, then but little known, but now the bosom companion of the universal world; after years of wasting and unremitting toil, has simultaneously electrified the whole habitable globe; has written his name first on the roll.

Immortal names that were not born to die?

and has given an impulse to the slumbering vitality of the human mind unparalleled in its annals from Adam and Eve to Davy Crockett.

Tall oaks from little acorns grow,

says one of the great men of the day—Edward Everett—and never was this great proposition so forcibly illustrated as by the result of the great thought-wakening discovery of the *Age*. The slightest and most insignificant causes have led to the most tremendous and lasting results. The mere organ of vision in the apex of a woman's physical identity, roused armies to deadly conflict, sank navies in the “vasty deep,” and levelled old Priam's walls to the dust forever. The squawk of a gosling saved Rome, the imperial; a dozen hen's eggs have led to protracted and expensive litigation, and a twisted nut-cake, whose name was scarcely breathed from the garret of a pile, lonely and misanthropic student, was plucked with care and intense thought, as careless of fame as of the life he wastes in midnight researches—has gone forth like a tropical storm, troubling every living thing in its path. Like the faint breath of a newborn infant, at first, it has swollen as it passed on, till it has pervaded all space, and shaken the earth to its center; while the careless and shrinking student who kept the great discovery locked in his own lonely heart, as a companion, and betrayed it with fear and trembling, now half-alighted at the tumult it has made, sits alone in his cold attic, with the hectic flush of momentary excitement lighting up his wan cheek, the splendor of exultation burning in his eye, and his head raised and turned slightly to catch the mighty sound of the roared, and jarred ocean of a giant flood, exulting in its maddened might, or the noise of whirlwinds dashing their wild wings against the everlasting hills.

We repeat, the world owe us a debt of eternal gratitude. We have been the humble instrument of the great *spirit of the age*, of arousing more thought, causing more deep and learned investigation, of producing more effort, more study, more research, than any man who ever lived—and the twisted nut-cake, having become a brother and part of the human mind, shall live, with the calmness of a God, secure in its immortality, when the philosopher's stone, and the names of Faust, Fulton and Capt. Symms, shall have shamed in eternal oblivion.

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